Decontrol of coal price in the country

296. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA :
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have mooted a proposal to decontrol the price of coal including the superior grade coal ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(c) what are the details of the recommendations made by Bureau of Industrial Cost and Price about the Pricing policy of coal to be followed in the country in future ;

(d) whether the Coal India Limited is enjoying monopoly status of production and sale of coal in the country ; and

(e) if so, how far it is advisable to decontrol the price and leave the consumer at the mercy of Coal India Limited without any alternative source of supply of coal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (e) Prices of coal are fixed by Govt. under clause 4 of Colliery Control Order, 1945 continued in force under Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) had first undertaken a study of coal industry in 1985 mainly with a view to rationalise its cost structure and to recommend coal prices which are fair and reasonable both to industry and to the consumers. Based on their report the coal prices are being revised from time to time.

BICP has again taken up the study of coal industry since 1991. Their final report has not been received. However, BICP have made some interim recommendations relating to grading for pricing of coal, decontrol of prices for some grades of coal, efficiency price for fully linked mines etc. Coal India Ltd., although the largest producer and supplier of coal, does not enjoy a monopoly status. Coal is also being produced by Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., some steel companies, State Mineral Development Corporations etc. Besides Govt. has already taken a decision to allow private companies engaged in power generation to own captive coal mines. Coal is also being allowed to be imported without any restrictions.

297. [*Transferred to 14th December, 1993*]

Representations Received for Payment of Cash Compensatory Support

298. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of representations received in the past three months for payment of Cash Compensatory Support to those exporters who concluded exports before the 2nd July, 1991 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Directorate General of Foreign Trade have not issued appropriate clarifications as required by the exporters for getting the payment ; and

(c) if so, the facts and reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Some representations have been received from exporters who had under taken exports upto 2nd July, 1991 for expeditious payment of CCS. Govt have issued clear instructions that CCS is to be paid by the Regional Licensing offices to all entitled categories of exporters.

Quantum Jump in Export of Agricultural Products

299. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a quantum jump in export of our agricultural products ;